

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SANTIA 01347 201717Z

44

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 IGA-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-05

/077 W

----- 047881

P 201621Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7283

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 1347

BRASILIA FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, CI

SUBJECT: SECURITY ASSISTANCE BILL - CHILE AMENDMENT

REF: STATE 40531

1. SUMMARY: CHILEAN REACTION TO ADOPTION BY SENATE OF KENNEDY AMENDMENT CUTTING OFF MILITARY SALES AND DELIVERIES TO CHILE IS A BLEND OF RESENTMENT AND ANXIETY. NEVERTHELESS, CHILEAN OFFICIAL RESPONSE HAS BEEN RESTRAINED; COUNTRY ADVISED TO AWAIT FINAL CONGRESSIONAL ACTION. END SUMMARY.

2. NEWS OF ADOPTION OF KENNEDY AMENDMENT BY SENATE HAS HAD CONSIDERABLE IMPACT IN CHILEAN OFFICIAL PRESS AND MEDIA CIRCLES. PRESS IS FULL OF REPORTS AND ANALYSES OF SENATE ACTION, WITH QUOTES FROM SENATORS SPEAKING ON BOTH SIDES IN DEBATE. EL MERCURIO CARRIES COMPLETE VOTING TALLY ON AMENDMENT.

3. MILITARY SOURCE TOLD US YESTERDAY THAT "PINOCHET WAS ANGRY." WHILE HIS REACTION WAS UNDOUBTEDLY QUITE WIDELY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SANTIA 01347 201717Z

SHARED, WE UNDERSTAND THAT HIS MEETING WITH GROUP OF

GENERALS AND ADMIRALS LATE FEB 19 TO CONSIDER THIS WLD OTHER DEVELOPMENTS WAS MODERATE IN TONE. WE CAN EXPECT CHILEAN AIR FORCE TO BE MOST CONCERNED; DELIVERIES ARE ABOUT TO BEGIN ON THEIR F-5 BUY, AND THEY ARE ALSO LOOKING FORWARD TO DELIVERY OF LAST GROUP OF A-37S. PAYMENTS ON THESE CONTRACTS ARE FULLY UP TO DATE, AND CANCELLATION OR DELAY WILL RAISE NUMBER OF LEGAL AND OPERATIONAL PROBLEMS. WITHIN CHILE, IT WILL DOUBTLESS INCREASE PRESSURE IN AIR FORCE TO FIND OTHER SOURCES OF SUPPLY, AT ANY COST.

4. PRESS REACTION AS A WHOLE IS OF COURSE HIGHLY CRITICAL, ESPECIALLY OF SENATOR KENNEDY, WHO HAS LONG BEEN REGARDED HERE AS A BITTER ENEMY AND, WITTINGLY OR UNWITTINGLY, A COMMUNIST TOOL. GOC, HOWEVER, IS OBVIOUSLY CONCERNED TO HOLD DOWN PUBLIC EMOTIONALISM. IN ABLE PRESS CONFERENCE AFTERNOON FEB 20, FONMIN CARVAJAL STRESSED THAT CONGRESS HAD NOT YET TAKEN FINAL ACTION. HE PAINSTAKINGLY ENUMERATED THE REMAINING STEPS IN THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS AND WOUND UP BY EXPRESSING HIS PERSONAL CONFIDENCE THAT THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, CHARACTERIZED BY THEIR SENSE OF JUSTICE, WOULD NOT APPROVE A LAW DEPRIVING CHILE OF THE NECESSARY MEANS TO MODERNIZE ITS ANTIQUATED DEFENSES.

5. OVERALL, WE WOULD CATEGORIZE CHILEAN REACTION AS A BLEND OF RESENTMENT AND ANXIETY. THE RESENTMENT IS SHARPENED BY THE TART COMMENTS OF SENATORS KENNEDY AND HUMPHREY. WHATEVER THEIR FEELINGS ABOUT THE MILITARY REGIME, CHILEANS ARE ANGRY OR AGGRIEVED AT BEING TOLD THEY HAVE "THE MOST REPRESSIVE REGIME IN LATIN AMERICA AND CERTAINLY IN THE WORLD" (SENATOR KENNEDY) -- AND THEY BELIEVE THAT BY ANY OBJECTIVE STANDARD THIS IS SIMPLY NOT SO. ON OTHER HAND, THEY TAKE SOME CONSOLATION FROM RELATIVELY CLOSE VOTE AND STRONGLY EXPRESSED OPPOSITION TO AMENDMENT ON SENATE FLOOR.

6. AT SAME TIME, A NOTE OF ANXIETY UNDERLIES THE CHILEANS' SENSE OF INJURY. CHILEANS DESPERATELY WANT AMERICAN MILITARY EQUIPMENT, NOT FOR INTERNAL SECURITY PURPOSES AS THEIR OPPONENTS ASSERT BUT TO IMPROVE THEIR DISADVANTAGEOUS POSITION WITH RESPECT TO PERU. THEY ALSO DESIRE VISIBLE SIGNS THAT THE UNITED STATES, WHICH THEY REGARD AS THE PRINCIPAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SANTIA 01347 201717Z

ANTI-COMMUNIST POWER, WILL COOPERATE WITH CHILE, ALSO AN ANTI-COMMUNIST COUNTRY. ACCORDINGLY, THEY ARE RESISTING THEIR IMPULSE TO TERMINATE THE US MILITARY GROUP IN CHILE (A THOUGHT WHICH SURFACES FROM TIME TO TIME), AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER NOTED IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE YESTERDAY THAT THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT AND THE ANNUAL JOINT NAVAL EXERCISE (UNITAS) ARE STILL IN EFFECT.
POPPER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE AGREEMENTS, MILITARY SALES, LEGISLATIVE BILLS, ARMS EMBARGO
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchant0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SANTIA01347
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760064-0493
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760229/aaaaazjh.tel
Line Count: 115
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 40531
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 JUL 2004 by coburnhl>; APPROVED <26 OCT 2004 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECURITY ASSISTANCE BILL - CHILE AMENDMENT
TAGS: MASS, CI, US
To: STATE BRASILIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006